

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-11

IO-13 CAB-09 COME-00 FAA-00 RSR-01 /117 W

----- 030468

R 070920Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5864

INFO USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC CP SMITH HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 10068

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: JA, CH, ETRN

SUBJECT: PRC-JAPANESE CIVIL AVIATION AGREEMENT

REF: TOKYO 10062

1. IN REMARKS TO THE PRESS FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM THE US, FONMIN OHIRA STATED THAT PEKING'S VIEWS ON A CIVIL AVIATION AGREEMENT WERE STILL UNCLEAR. HE NOTED THAT HE HAD URGED KENZO KONO, PRESIDENT OF HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS, TO SPEAK FRANKLY WITH THE CHINESE DURING KONO'S RECENT VISIT TO THE PRC TO DETERMINE PEKING'S VIEWS AND TO CLARIFY JAPAN'S ATTITUDE TO THE CHINESE. WHILE EXPRESSING IMPATIENCE OVER THE SPEED OF REACHING AGREEMENT, OHIRA SAID AN AVIATION AGREEMENT MUST BE CONCLUDED FIRST BEFORE CONCLUDING OTHER OPERATIONAL AGREEMENTS. HE IMPLIED THAT A DECISION SHOULD BE MADE DURING THE CURRENT DIET SESSION WHICH CLOSES SEPTEMBER 27.

2. OHIRA'S REMARKS FOLLOW UNCONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS OF
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KONO'S QUOTING CHOU EN-LAI AS SAYING THAT CHINA WAS

ANXIOUS TO CONCLUDE AN AVIATION AGREEMENT SOON BUT,
IN RECOGNITION OF JAPANESE SENSITIVITIES, CHINA WOULD
NOT RPT NOT PRESSURE TANAKA AND OHIRA INTO AN AGREEMENT
WHICH COULD CAUSE THEM DIFFICULTIES.

3. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO FONOFF, GOJ IS AWAITING KONO'S
REPORT TO TANAKA OR OHIRA BEFORE DECIDING BEST COURSE FOR
ACHIEVING A CIVIL AVIATION AGREEMENT. OHIRA'S STRESSING
THE PRIORITY OF AN AVIATION AGREEMENT WAS PRESUMABLY
DESIGNED TO NUDGE PEKING INTO SPEEDING AN ACCEPTABLE
AGREEMENT. CHOU'S REPORTED GRACIOUSNESS NOTWITHSTANDING,
HE CLEARLY KNOWS THE PRESSURE TANAKA IS UNDER AND WOULD
NOT BE ADVERSE TO TAKING ADVANTAGE OF TANAKA'S
DIFFICULTIES WHILE MAKING THE JAPANESE APPEAR TO BE THE
INTRANSIGENT PARTY.
SHOESMITH

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